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terized by its want of uniformity, and the wide divergence between the letter of the law and its actual application. One is forced to confine himself, as Mr. Lowell has done, to general statements. Any attempt to enumerate exceptions would be an endless task.

Mr. Lowell has given the English reader a general outline of the *moments* of French civilization at the outbreak of the Revolution. Another work like that of De Tocqueville, the result of twenty years' preparation, is not to be expected. The author avoids, however, the enumeration of perplexing details, which serve, as in Taine's work, to confuse rather than clarify our ideas. No attempt is made to treat the historical events during the reign of Louis XVI., a period so rich in illustrations of the prevailing abuses. For when the attempt was made to throw off the bad habits of the *Ancien régime*, it was first realized how inveterate and deep-seated these habits were. Mr. Lowell, it is to be hoped, may sometime find himself in a position to supplement the present work by a history of France for 1774-1789.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Lowell's "Index of Editions Cited," which furnishes us with a much-needed bibliography, should not have been more complete. We miss such works as Lomenie's "*Mirabeaus*," Bouchard's "*Système financier de l'ancien régime*," Aubertin's "*L'esprit publique pendant la 18ième Siècle*," and Augeard's "*Memoires*."

J. H. R.

Complete Guide to the World's Twenty-Nine Metal Monetary Systems.

By JOHN HENRY NORMAN, Member of the London Chamber of Commerce. Pp. xx, 328. New York : G. P. Putnam's Sons.

It is rather difficult at the outset to say what this work does *not* treat of. From its title one might expect a mere comparison of the actual monetary systems of different nations, with a brief history of their development. But, as the title page indicates, the author aims in addition to expound "foreign and colonial exchanges of gold, silver and inconvertible paper on the unit of weight system, with aids to the construction of the science of money." The plan of the book is defective, first, because the material is not welded together in any definite logical shape; and second, because the author has attempted to treat subjects broad enough to fill half a dozen volumes. It is a book such as might be expected from a business man, who with a clear grasp on each separate topic, has no clearly conceived notion of the dependence of the various parts. Of practical value may be cited the proposed method of calculating exchange by

comparing different money-units estimated by their weight in pure metal in one tabular system, rather than the more complex method of calculation where two different units of weight are first employed, and then compared to effect the calculation of the par. The statistical tables will prove also of practical assistance in the calculation of exchange. But beyond this there is little to be said in favor of the book. As an explanation of exchange it is not to be compared to Goschen's "Theory of the Foreign Exchanges." As regards the expression of opinion on monetary theory in general, the criticisms of Jevons, Walker and others, the frequent animadversions on bi-metallism and the theory of value, the work is comparatively worthless. Whatever service the book may render will be along the line of statistical tables in the practical problems of comparing different currencies.

W. M. D.

Princeton.

Ordinamento degli Stati Liberi fuori d'Europa. Del DOTT. FRANCESCO RACIOPPI. Manuali Hoepli, CXII-CXIII. Pp. 372. Milano : Ulrico Hoepli, 1892.

This is a manual giving, in the most concise form, an abstract of the constitution and an outline of the governmental machinery of all constitutional governments outside of Europe. The list includes the United States, together with each separate State of the Union, all the States of Central and South America, Australia, Africa, Japan, in short it is absolutely complete. A note after each title gives the area, population, population per square kilometer, capital and its population, and the number of counties or other minor divisions of the state in question. The abstracts are admirably written in clear, easy Italian, and the information given seems to be exactly what one would naturally desire on the subject. No comment is indulged in. A previous number in the same series of manuals treats of the European States in like manner, thus completing the subject. It is a matter for regret that no equally good presentation of the subject can be found in English.

H. H. P.

University of Wisconsin.

The German Bundesrath: A Study in Comparative Constitutional Law. By JAMES HARVEY ROBINSON, Ph. D. Publications of the University of Pennsylvania. Political Economy and Public Law Series. Vol. III., No. 1. Pp. 68. Philadelphia, 1891.